

Haugland et al.
US Serial No. 10/005,050

REMARKS

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) papers were filed February 22, 2005 in the above-identified application. At the time the RCE papers were filed Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 19-33, 36-56 and 71-80 were pending. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 19, 20, 32, 33, 36-56 and 73-79 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with written description. Claims 13 and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 21-31, 71, 72 and 80 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Amendments

Claims 1, 9, 14, 20, and 73 have been amended to add "-L-R_x" as an option for R¹ through R⁷ and to remove "maleimide, amine reactive group". Additional language was added to clarify that -L is "a spacer having 1-24 nonhydrogen atoms" and that R_x is "maleimide or a succinimidyl ester of a carboxylic acid". Support can be found in the claims as filed.

Claims 2 and 10 have been amended to clarify that R_x is "a succinimidyl ester of a carboxylic acid" instead of generically an "amine reactive group". Support can be found in the claims as filed.

Claim 6 has been amended to depend from Claim 1.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from Claim 9.

Claim 13 has been amended to depend from Claim 9.

Claim 16 has been amended to depend from Claim 14.

Claim 36 has been amended to depend from Claim 20

Claims 57-70 have been canceled.

Claim 71 has been amended to depend from Claim 1.

Claim 72 has been amended to depend from Claim 9.

Claims 75, 76, 77 and 80 have been amended to depend from Claim 73.

Claim 78 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

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Applicants believe that no new matter has been added by any of these amendments and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter them.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections are respectfully requested. All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicant respectfully submits that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution of the claims originally filed in this application in continuation, continuation-in-part, and/or divisional applications.

It is submitted that this application is now ready for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (541) 335-0203.

Respectfully submitted,

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